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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education
From Denise G. Saddler, EdD, Interim Superintendent
Tara Gard, Chief Talent Officer, Talent Division
Meeting Date April 22, 2026
Subject Recognition – Oakland Unified School District - 2025-2026 Classified School Employees of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of Resolution No. 2526-0091 – Recognition of the District’s 2025–2026 Classified School Employees of the Year, collectively and individually, in the categories named below:

Employee	Category
Ponpoly Thy	Paraprofessional
Milagros Rodriguez	Clerical & Administrative Services
Cynthia Johnson	Food & Nutrition Services
Yufu Li	Custodial & Maintenance Services
Humphrey Garrett	Security Services
Ardean Mondy	Health and Student Services
Sobrina Onate	Technical Services
Sigifredo Altamirano	Skilled Trades

Background Annually the District identifies and honors its own, and OUSD’s Classified School Employees of the Year program aligns with the criteria used by the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year program.

Discussion The purpose is to recognize and pay special tribute to the tireless efforts and outstanding performance of one experienced classified line employee in each of the following categories: Paraprofessional Services; Clerical and Administrative Services; Food and Nutrition Services; Custodial and Maintenance Services; Security Services; Health and Student Services; Technical Services; and Skilled Trades. The district’s honorees are in turn submitted to the Alameda County Office of Education in consideration of state Classified School Employees of the Year.

Fiscal Impact N/A

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE
OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Resolution No. 2526-0091**

- Recognition – Oakland Unified School District - 2025-2026 Classified School Employees
of the Year - Talent/Human Resources Department -

WHEREAS, the goal of the District’s Classified School Employees of the Year program is to identify and honor outstanding classified line employees in each of the following categories: Paraprofessional Services; Clerical and Administrative Services; Food and Nutrition Services; Custodial and Maintenance Services; Security Services; Health and Student Services; Technical Services; and Skilled Trades Services;

WHEREAS, Ponpoly Thy, Milagros Rodriguez, Cynthia Johnson, Yufu Li, Humphrey Garrett, Ardean Mondy, Sobrina Onate, and Sigifredo Altamirano each collectively and individually were selected as Oakland Unified School District's 2025-2026 “Classified School Employees of the Year” and these employees may represent the District in the State of California Classified School Employees of the Year competition;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ponpoly Thy demonstrates excellence in her work performance through her strong relationships with students and her commitment to fostering a love of reading by continually updating the library with engaging and popular titles, creating a dynamic and welcoming space where students enjoy browsing, reading, and borrowing books;

WHEREAS, Ms. Thy models inclusion and community connection by celebrating the diverse cultures and abilities of students through heritage month displays, while consistently going above and beyond to support staff and students with kindness, generosity, and a welcoming presence, ensuring the library and school environment remain safe, supportive, and inclusive for all;

WHEREAS, Ms. Milagros “Mili” Rodriguez demonstrates excellence in work performance through her unwavering dedication to students, families, and staff, serving as a trusted Attendance Specialist who builds strong relationships, removes barriers to student success, and consistently goes beyond her role to support the school community;

WHEREAS, Ms. Rodriguez exemplifies leadership, commitment, and community connection through her bilingual support, deep relationships with families, and ongoing contributions as a mentor, problem-solver, and advocate, fostering a culture of belonging and ensuring that all members of the school community feel welcomed, supported, and valued;

WHEREAS, Ms. Cynthia Johnson exemplifies excellence in work performance as a dedicated and dependable member of the Nutrition Services team, demonstrating a strong work ethic, proactive problem-solving skills, and a commitment to ensuring the efficient production and distribution of meals daily to support students across the District;

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson demonstrates leadership, compassion, and commitment through her support of colleagues, her role as a bilingual communicator, and her willingness to go above

and beyond to ensure student safety and well-being, consistently reflecting professionalism, care, and dedication to the success of the entire school community;

WHEREAS, Mr. Yufu Li demonstrates excellence in work performance through his unwavering dedication, reliability, and commitment to maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming campus environment, consistently going above and beyond to support students, staff, and school operations;

WHEREAS, Mr. Li exemplifies leadership and service through his proactive approach, positive attitude, and willingness to support the school community at all times, including acting with courage and care to ensure student safety, thereby fostering a strong, supportive, and connected school environment;

WHEREAS, Mr. Humphrey Garrett demonstrates excellence in his work performance through his professionalism, reliability, and commitment to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment, consistently going above and beyond to support colleagues and the broader school community;

WHEREAS, Mr. Garrett exemplifies leadership and community engagement through his proactive approach to safety, willingness to support school events beyond his assigned duties, and positive attitude that fosters trust, collaboration, and a strong sense of security and belonging for staff, students, and families;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ardean Mondy demonstrates exceptional dedication, professionalism, and compassion through her decades of service, serving as a trusted and welcoming presence at Prescott Elementary School, where she builds meaningful relationships with students, families, and staff and ensures that all who enter the school feel seen, supported, and valued;

WHEREAS, Ms. Mondy exemplifies leadership and commitment through her unwavering reliability, strong advocacy for colleagues, and ability to foster a positive and inclusive school culture, using her deep knowledge and experience to support the school community, strengthen relationships, and ensure a welcoming and supportive environment for all;

WHEREAS, Ms. Sobrina Onate demonstrates excellence in work performance through her dedication as the primary point of contact for Technology Services support, providing responsive, thoughtful, and solutions-oriented assistance that ensures staff and students can effectively access critical systems and tools;

WHEREAS, Ms. Onate exemplifies leadership and commitment through her ability to build strong relationships, improve systems and processes, and consistently go above and beyond to support colleagues across the District, fostering efficiency, collaboration, and a positive experience for all those she serves;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sigifredo Altamirano demonstrates excellence in work performance through his strong work ethic, reliability, and commitment to delivering high-quality work, consistently supporting school facilities through his skilled craftsmanship and dedication to safety and efficiency;

WHEREAS, Mr. Altamirano exemplifies leadership and teamwork through his willingness to support colleagues, take on challenging projects, and contribute to a positive and collaborative

work environment, ensuring that school sites remain safe, functional, and supportive for students, staff, and the broader community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District recognize and honor Ponpoly Thy, Milagros Rodriguez, Cynthia Johnson, Yufu Li, Humphrey Garrett, Ardean Mondy, Sobrina Onate, and Sigifredo Altamirano, each collectively and individually, for exceptional service to the students and city of Oakland and honor them as the District’s 2025–2026 “Classified School Employees of the Year.”

Given under our hand and the district’s seal this 22nd day of April, 2026, in Oakland, California.

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Board of Education
Oakland Unified School District

Denise G. Saddler, EdD
Interim Superintendent
Oakland Unified School District

Passed by the following vote:

PREFERENTIAL AYE:

PREFERENTIAL NOE:

PREFERENTIAL ABSTENTION:

PREFERENTIAL RECUSE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAINED:

RECUSE:

ABSENT:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of a Resolution passed at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Oakland Unified School District held April 22, 2026.

Legislative File	
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By:	

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Brouhard
President, Board of Education

Denise G. Saddler, EdD, Interim Superintendent and
Secretary, Board of Education